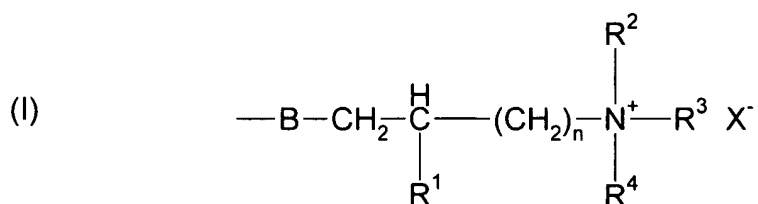


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (original) A paper comprising a filler and a cellulose ether wherein the cellulose ether comprises a quaternary ammonium group, with the proviso that the cellulose ether is not a hydroxyethyl cellulose.

2. (original) The paper according to claim 1 wherein the quaternary ammonium group is represented by the formula:



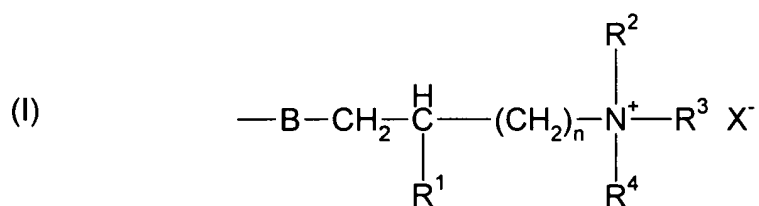
wherein R¹ is H or OH, R², R³, and R⁴ are the same or different and are selected from C₁-C₂₄ alkyl, C₆-C₂₄ aryl, C₇-C₂₄ aralkyl, C₇-C₂₄ alkaryl, C₃-C₂₄ cycloalkyl, C₂-C₂₄ alkoxyalkyl, and C₇-C₂₄ alkoxyaryl groups, or R², R³, R⁴, and the quaternary nitrogen atom form an aliphatic or aromatic heterocyclic ring; n is an integer of 1 to 4, B is attached to the backbone of the cellulose ether and selected from O, OC(O), C(O)O, C(O)-NH, NHC(O), S, OSO₃, OPO₃, NH, or NR⁵, wherein R⁵ is a C₂-C₆ acyl or a C₁-C₄ alkyl radical, and X⁻ is an anion.

3. (currently amended) The paper according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein the cellulose ether has a DS of quaternary ammonium groups of between 0.01 and 0.7.

4. (currently amended) The paper according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the cellulose ether further has a DS of carboxymethyl groups of between 0.05 and 1.0.

5. (original) A paper coating comprising cellulose ether wherein the cellulose ether comprises a quaternary ammonium group.

6. (new) The paper according to claim 2 wherein the cellulose ether has a DS of quaternary ammonium groups of between 0.01 and 0.7.
7. (new) The paper according to claim 2 wherein the cellulose ether further has a DS of carboxymethyl groups of between 0.05 and 1.0.
8. (new) The paper coating according to claim 5 wherein said cellulose ether is not a hydroxyethyl cellulose.
9. (new) The paper coating according to claim 8 wherein the quaternary ammonium group is represented by the formula:



wherein R¹ is H or OH, R², R³, and R⁴ are the same or different and are selected from C₁-C₂₄ alkyl, C₆-C₂₄ aryl, C₇-C₂₄ aralkyl, C₇-C₂₄ alkaryl, C₃-C₂₄ cycloalkyl, C₂-C₂₄ alkoxyalkyl, and C₇-C₂₄ alkoxyaryl groups, or R², R³, R⁴, and the quaternary nitrogen atom form an aliphatic or aromatic heterocyclic ring; n is an integer of 1 to 4, B is attached to the backbone of the cellulose ether and selected from O, OC(O), C(O)O, C(O)-NH, NHC(O), S, OSO₃, OPO₃, NH, or NR⁵, wherein R⁵ is a C₂-C₆ acyl or a C₁-C₄ alkyl radical, and X⁻ is an anion.

10. (new) The paper coating according to claim 9 wherein the cellulose ether has a DS of quaternary ammonium groups of between 0.01 and 0.7.
11. (new) The paper coating according to claim 9 wherein the cellulose ether further has a DS of carboxymethyl groups of between 0.05 and 1.0.